

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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## Report

on behalf of the Legal Affairs Committee

on an amendment to Rule 36(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the European  
Parliament on the ~~minimum~~ number of members necessary to form a political  
group.

Rapporteur: Mr V. VERNASCHI

PE 34.208/fin.



By letter of 21 September 1973 the President of the European Parliament, on behalf of the enlarged Bureau, invited the Legal Affairs Committee to submit to the European Parliament a motion for a resolution to amend the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure with a view to reducing to ten, in certain circumstances, the minimum number of members necessary to form a political group.

The Legal Affairs Committee appointed Mr VERNASCHI rapporteur on 27 September 1973.

The motion for a resolution and explanatory statement were adopted by 11 votes to 2 with 6 absentions by the Legal Affairs Committee at its meeting of 11 October 1973.

The following were present:

Mr Schuijt, chairman, Mr Jozeau-Marigné, vice chairman, Mr Vernaschi, rapporteur, Mr Adams (deputizing for Mr Bermani), Mr Broeksz, Mr Brugger, Mr Corterier, Mr D'Angelosante, Mr Delmotte (deputizing for Mr Nielsen), Mr Lautenschlager, Mr Lucius, Mr Pêtre (deputizing for Mr Memmel), Mr Rivierez, Mr Schmidt, Mr Schwörer, Mr Springorum, Mr Vermeulen, Sir Derek Walker-Smith, Mr Yeats

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The Legal Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on an amendment to Rule 36(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament on the minimum number of members necessary to form a political group

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Rules of Procedure;
- having regard to the report of the Legal Affairs Committee (Doc. 190/73),

1. Has decided to amend Rule 36(5) of the Rules of Procedure as follows:

'Rule 36

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5. A group shall consist of not less than fourteen members. However, a group may consist of ten members where these represent at least two Member States'

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, and the report of its committee for information, to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.



B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. At its meeting of 13 September 1973 the enlarged Bureau of the European Parliament considered the question of the minimum number of members needed to form a political group.

It concluded that it would be advisable to leave unchanged the minimum number of fourteen members already laid down in Rule 36(5) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure. However, in the enlarged Bureau's opinion the formation of a group consisting of at least ten members of Parliament ought to be permitted where these represent three or more Member States and hold the same political views.

The enlarged Bureau therefore invited the Legal Affairs Committee to submit to the European Parliament a motion for a resolution for amending the Rules of Procedure accordingly.

2. The committee feels that the suggested amendment would serve a useful purpose, both on political grounds and in the interests of fairness.

Firstly, there is no doubt that plurinational groupings of members of the European Parliament are a highly desirable development.

Secondly, it would seem only fair that plurinational groupings consisting of an adequate number of members should be accorded the same treatment also as regards administrative facilities as political groups formed pursuant to the present provisions of Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure.

3. The committee nevertheless considers it advisable, in order to avoid possible discrimination in the future, that the minimum number of Member States represented by members forming a group should be two; this formula is not contrary to the principle of multinationality desired by the enlarged Bureau.

4. Some members wished to establish unconditionally at ten the minimum number of members of a political group. Others were opposed to reducing the number laid down in the present Rules of Procedure. The majority of the committee members, however, took the opposite view.

5. In the light of the foregoing considerations, the committee invites the European Parliament to adopt the motion for a resolution which it hereby submits.

